

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and mechanism for inter-node communication. A first node is coupled to a second node via a communication link. The first node is configured to convey a heartbeat or similar data packet to the second node on a periodic or other scheduled basis. A message manager within the first node is configured to detect an inter-node message is available for transmission to the second node. If the detected message exceeds a

10 predetermined size, the message is partitioned into blocks which are less than or equal in size to the predetermined size. The blocks are then encoded pursuant to a forward error correcting algorithm, such as an erasure code algorithm, and stored as payload in the periodically conveyed data packets. Pseudo-header information may also be included with each block to indicate a message type, message identifier, message length, or block

15 sequence number.